

Patent Application Number: 10/045,368

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the present application.

A. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Norwood et al. in view of Schenkel et al.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Norwood et al. (US-6,561,841) in view of Schenkel et al. (US-5,524,463). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Norwood et al. in view of Schenkel et al., and as it may be applied to newly added claims 6-20, is respectfully traversed.

In formulating the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103, the Examiner alleges that Norwood et al. teaches a connector system. The Examiner recognizes that Norwood et al. fails to teach a first inter-connection attachment means in physical association with the first device having one predefined non-rectangular geometric shape and a second inter-connection attachment means in physical association with the second device, having a second predefined non-rectangular geometric shape wherein the second shape physically mates with the first geometric shape.

To meet this deficiency, the Examiner alleges that Schenkel et al. teaches such a concept. From these allegations, the Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Norwood et al. with the teachings of Schenkel et al. These positions and conclusion by the Examiner are respectfully traversed.

The presently invention as set forth by amended independent claim 1, is directed to a system for securing physical attachment comprising a first device having a first inter-connection attachment member, the first inter-connection attachment member having a first predefined non-rectangular geometric shape, the first inter-connection attachment member including a sensor; a second device having a second inter-connection attachment member, the second inter-connection attachment member having a second predefined non-rectangular geometric shape, the second predefined non-rectangular geometric shape and the first predefined non-rectangular geometric shape enabling the second inter-connection attachment member to mate with the first inter-connection attachment member; and a securing member engaging the first and second inter-connection attachment members to physically secure the mating of the

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second inter-connection attachment member with the first inter-connection attachment member. Amended independent claim 1 further recites that the sensor senses when the securing member has engaged the first and second inter-connection attachment members.

Moreover, the presently invention as set forth by newly added independent claim 13, is directed to a system for securing physical attachment comprising a first device having a first inter-connection attachment member, the first inter-connection attachment member having a first predefined non-rectangular geometric shape, the first inter-connection attachment member including a first sensor and a second sensor; a second device having a second inter-connection attachment member, the second inter-connection attachment member having a second predefined non-rectangular geometric shape, the second predefined non-rectangular geometric shape and the first predefined non-rectangular geometric shape enabling the second inter-connection attachment member to mate with the first inter-connection attachment member; and a securing member engaging the first and second inter-connection attachment members to physically secure the mating of the second inter-connection attachment member with the first inter-connection attachment member. Newly added independent claim 13 further recites that the first sensor senses when the securing member has engaged the first and second inter-connection attachment members, and that the second sensor senses when the first device is in close proximity to the second device.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 13, the presently claimed invention includes a sensor that senses when the securing member has engaged the first and second inter-connection attachment members. Moreover, with respect to independent claim 13, the presently claimed invention includes an additional sensor that senses when the first device is in close proximity to the second device.

In contrast, Norwood et al. and/or Schenkel et al. fail to teach a sensor that senses when the securing member has engaged the first and second inter-connection attachment members, as set forth by independent claims 1 and 13. Moreover, Norwood et al. and/or Schenkel et al. fail to teach an additional sensor that senses when the first device is in close proximity to the second device, as set forth by independent claim 13.

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In summary, Norwood et al. and Schenkel et al., singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a sensor that senses when the securing member has engaged the first and second inter-connection attachment members, as set forth by independent claims 1 and 13. Moreover, Norwood et al. and Schenkel et al., singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest an additional sensor that senses when the first device is in close proximity to the second device, as set forth by independent claim 13.

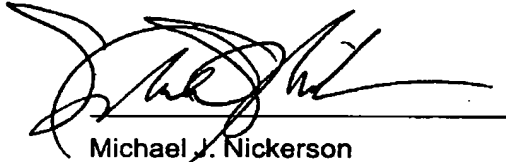
With respect to dependent claims 2 and 3, the Applicant, for the sake of brevity, will not address the reasons supporting patentability for these individual dependent claims, as these claims depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent claim 4.

Accordingly, in view of the remarks set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of all the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the present rejection. Also, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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